THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As on 31.1.99, 1469 number of electronic exchanges are functioning in Gujarat. District-wise details are placed given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) There is no manual telephone exchange functioning in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

**Statement**

| S. No. | Name of District | No. of electronic exchanges functioning as on 31.1.1999 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ahmedabad Gandhinagar | 104 |
| 2. | Bharuch | 58 |
| 3. | Kutch-Bhuj | 111 |
| 4. | Bhavnagar | 74 |
| 5. | Jamnagar | 73 |
| 6. | Junagadh | 92 |
| 7. | Kheda | 111 |
| 8. | Banaskantha | 100 |
| 9. | Mehsana | 127 |
| 10. | Panchmahal | 69 |
| 11. | Rajkot | 119 |
| 12. | Surat | 65 |
| 13. | Sabarkantha | 95 |
| 14. | Surendranagar | 75 |
| 15. | Amreli | 60 |
| 16. | Vadodara | 74 |
| 17. | Valsad Ahwa-dang | 62 |
| | TOTAL | 1469 |

**New Telecom Policy**

1431. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Special Group, headed by the Minister of External Affairs, to formulate the New Telecom Policy by 31st March, 1999;

(b) whether it is a fact that the discussion paper on the said policy, which was released by the Group on Telecommunication (GoT) on 23rd January, 1999 failed to cheer the Telecom Industry, as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated 26th January, 1999; and

(c) if so, whether Government have consulted so far all concerned parties—the licensor, regulator, operator and the consumer and by when the final picture will be made clear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Government have set up a Group on Telecommunication (GoT) headed by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and now Minister of External Affairs to give recommendations for the formulation of a New Telecom Policy. A discussion paper on New Telecom Policy was released by GoT on Internet soliciting views and comments from the Public. A large number of comments have been received from various sections including the Group on Industries (In GoT), Regulator, Operators and consumers. All these are under consideration of the GoT. The final picture on the policy will emerge only after GoT has finalised its recommendations.

**Missing Money Order**

1432. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the item which appeared in the Action Line Column of the Hindustan Times, Delhi Edition dated the 11th May, 1998 under the caption "Missing M.O.";

(b) whether the said money had been refunded to the grievancee in case of Money Order Receipt No. 1101 dated the 21st April, 1997 from Dehradun (UP), Post Office;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and